ASTRONOMY MAJOR

Program Director: Melissa Hayes-Gehrke, Ph.D.

The Astronomy Department offers courses leading to a Bachelor of Science in Astronomy as well as a series of courses of general interest to non-majors. Astronomy majors are given a strong undergraduate preparation in Astronomy, Mathematics, and Physics. The degree program is designed to prepare students for positions in government and industry laboratories or for graduate work in Astronomy or related fields. Courses offered by this department may be found under the following acronym: ASTR.

Program Objectives

The Department of Astronomy B.S. program educates majors toward achieving an understanding of modern astronomical concepts, applying physics and mathematics to astrophysical situations, and gaining experience in gathering and reducing data using astronomical instrumentation and computational tools. Completion of this program provides the opportunity for majors to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for graduate school or employment after graduation.

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Identify basic concepts from the many areas of astronomy, including motions in the sky, gravity, electromagnetic radiation, solar system, stars, and galaxies.
2. Develop mathematical skills, acquire physics knowledge, and practice applying these skills and knowledge in astrophysical situations.
3. Use astronomical telescopes/instruments and reduce astronomical data using modern computational methods.
4. Demonstrate advanced level knowledge in several different areas of astronomy.

For further details, see the department's assessment plan: astro.umd.edu/academics/astronomyBS.pdf

For students with experience with computer programming this course can be replaced by PHYS474 Computational Physics or ASTR415 Computational Astrophysics. If students complete ASTR415 for this requirement, it cannot be counted as an advanced astronomy course (400-level course) requirement.

Grades in all of the above required courses must be "C-" or better.

FOUR YEAR PLAN

Click here (https://cmns.umd.edu/undergraduate/advising-academic-planning/academic-planning/four-year-plans/four-year-plans-gened/) for roadmaps for four-year plans in the College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences.

Additional information on developing a four-year academic plan can be found on the following pages:

- 4yearplans.umd.edu (http://4yearplans.umd.edu/)
- the Student Academic Success-Degree Completion Policy (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/registration-academic-requirements-regulations/academic-advising/) section of this catalog